

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT  

CD NO. 50X1

COUNTRY Albania

DATE DISTR. 4 Apr 1953

SUBJECT Berat - Town Description

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED  

NO. OF ENCLS. 1  
(LISTED BELOW) 50X1

DATE ACQUIRED  

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 50X1

DATE OF INFORMATION  

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

 

1.   Berat (40°42'N, 19°56'E), a centuries-old town which had a population of about 13 thousand in 1943. The town is located in a valley and is situated on both sides of Osum River. There are no satellite villages.
2. The Osum river is about two hundred meters wide in the town and about five hundred meters wide on both edges of the town. It flows from east to west. There is only one bridge across the river. It was built by the Italians,   in 1943, and is of concrete construction and one lane wide. The river is not suited for commercial fishing. Despite the river banks, which are about 12 meters high, the river floods the Gorica and Mongalem sections [see  ].
3. Most streets are very crooked and narrow and are paved with white round stones about one foot in diameter which are tightly pressed into the ground. All streets are equipped with electric lights which are fastened on wooden poles about 10 or 12 meters high.
4. Residences are almost all of white stone construction with red tile roofs and are erected at the edge of the streets. They are heated with wood burning stoves. In about 1940 the Italians constructed a waterworks which supplies all homes. More than 75% of the homes are privately owned and about 30% are equipped with radios. Heavy snows, which sometimes get to be more than one meter deep, make it extremely difficult for horse and wagon transportation within the town during the winter months. There are no buses in the city and there is no railroad in the town. The population is almost completely Albanian with no minority groups. Salt is obtained from Vlonë (40°27'N, 19°30'E). Public market day is Saturday.
5.   a freehand sketch [Enclosure A] not drawn to scale, showing the location of the principal buildings. Numbers on the sketch are identified with the corresponding numbers listed below.
  1. Prefecture building. Administrative offices for the Berat prefect are located in this building; two floors, stone construction.
  2. City hall. Two floors, stone construction.

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL/SECURITY INFORMATION

STATE	X	REC	X	FBI	X	DISTRIBUTION								
ARMY	X	NAVY	X	Air EV	X									

CONFIDENTIAL/SECURITY INFORMATION

- 2 -

50X1

3. Post office. All outgoing mail must be taken here. Two floors, stone construction.
  4. Public market.
  5. Court building. Two floors, stone construction. A small jail of one floor is attached to the north side of this building.
  6. Gymnasium. Two floors, stone construction. It has about one thousand students and is well equipped with at least 10 laboratories.
  7. Hydroelectric power plant. Power lines are above ground on wooden poles.
  8. Waterworks. Water is obtained from the Osum River and is carried in pipes under the floor of the Berat bridge to the town.
  9. Army barracks.  accommodates about three thousand troops.
  10. Flour mill. 50X1
  11. National Albanian Bank. Four floors, stone construction.
  12. Police headquarters. Four floors, stone construction.
  13. Hotel Columbo. Four floors, stone. This is about the largest building in town except for the hospital.
  14. Berat prefect hospital. Three floors, stone construction. There are only six physicians.
  15. Air port. This is situated about six kilometers northwest of the town. It was built by the Italians.
- A. Goprica quarter.
  - B. Murat Celepia quarter.
  - C. Mongalem quarter. Greatest population.
  - D. Kala quarter. Least population. This is on a high mound on which is a very old castle now used as a residence by numerous families.

- end -

Enclosure (A): Freehand sketch showing location of principal buildings in Berat.

CONFIDENTIAL/SECURITY INFORMATION

Freehand Sketch Showing Location of Principal Buildings in Berat 50X1

